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## WHAT IS ENUM?

Electronic Numbering (ENUM), as defined in RFC 3761, is a relatively simple protocol involving two core concepts:

- the process of creating a domain name from a TN and resolving it to an Internet address (a uniform resource identifier, or URI) using DNS technology
- the hosting of ENUM domain names in the *e164.arpa* domain

For example, the telephone number +1 (202) 555-1212 will be converted into the ENUM domain name **2.1.2.1.5.5.5.2.0.2.1.e164.arpa**. A DNS query to that domain name will ultimately resolve to one or more DNS records (NAPTR records), which will provide a URI. The domain name 2.1.2.1.5.5.5.2.0.2.1.e164.arpa may resolve to the SIP URI sip:12025551212@voipcarrier.net. The SIP proxy service will then use the URI to establish a session between the originating SIP user and the terminating SIP user.

Telephone country codes are delegated from the domain *e164.arpa*. Country Code 1 (the country code for the United States, Canada and 17

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Caribbean countries) is designated by the domain **1.e164.arpa**. Because the use of telephone numbers is regulated both globally and within each country, the process of creating and delegating these domains requires the involvement and approval of regulatory bodies.



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